

Shimon Pleads Guilty to 'Bugging' Mayflower Hotel, Sentencing Delayed

Retired Washington Police Insp. Joseph W. Shimon, scheduled for trial this week on a conspiracy charge, pleaded guilty yesterday to a pair of lesser offenses in the Mayflower Hotel "bugging" case.

Accompanied by his attorney, C. William Tayler, the 59-year-old Shimon pleaded guilty in District Court to using an

electronic "bug" in the hotel suite of San Francisco lawyer Malcolm T. Dungan from March 31 through April 4, 1962.

He also pleaded guilty to attempting to get private detective Wayne G. Barber to lie to a grand jury about ownership of the "bug."

Both offenses are misdemeanors, carrying a combined possible maximum penalty of two years imprisonment and \$11,000 in fines. Judge William B. Bryant deferred sentencing pending a probation report.

Government prosecutor Harold J. Sullivan said he agreed to let Shimon plead to the lesser offenses rather than proceed with the conspiracy trial.

Shimon had already gone to trial twice on the obstruction-of-justice felony charge of conspiring to induce Barber to lie about ownership of the electronic transmitter. The Southern California

first ended in a mistrial, the second in a conviction overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals last September on grounds that the trial judge had given the Government too much latitude in questioning Shimon's character witnesses.

Shimon was awaiting his third trial in the case when he decided to plead guilty to the misdemeanors.

During the conspiracy trials, Government witnesses testified Shimon borrowed the electronic bug from Barber, then turned it over the three other private detectives.

Dungan was in Washington representing the El Paso Natural Gas Co. before the Federal Power Commission when he discovered the "bug" under a coffee table in his hotel room. He had been meeting privately with his clients in the room. El Paso was competing at the time for a million-dollar pipeline franchise into Southern California.